

Green Acres Program
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June 2008

Dear Nonprofit Organization:

Thanks to the passage of the 2007 Open Space Referendum, matching grants are available from Green Acres for land preservation and park development projects. I am pleased to extend an invitation to all qualifying nonprofit organizations to apply for funding to acquire land or develop outdoor recreational facilities. Approvals will be made using these newly available funds, as well as supplemental funding from project cancellations and withdrawals. I ask that you provide a copy of this letter to each member of your board.

Green Acres will accept applications until September 30, 2008. Funding is limited, and we anticipate that competition will be intense. As a result, we will only consider funding requests from **new applicants** or from applicants who have **completed or are making significant progress** on previously approved projects.

Eligible land acquisition projects include the purchase of natural areas, historic sites, conservation areas, water bodies, and open space for active or passive recreation purposes. Eligible recreational projects include facilities that provide boating, fishing, swimming, outdoor games and sports, biking, picnicking, camping, or nature interpretation. Park development funding can only be used in densely populated and Urban Aid municipalities. Related costs incurred as part of the acquisition or development project also may be eligible for reimbursement. More detailed information about funding is provided in the enclosed attachment.

On behalf of Commissioner Jackson and the entire staff of Green Acres, thank you for your continued support of our program.

Sincerely,

John Flynn
Administrator



GREEN ACRES NONPROFIT PROJECTS

The Green Acres Program provides grants, on a 50% matching basis, to qualifying tax exempt nonprofit organizations for the acquisition and development of land for outdoor recreation and conservation purposes. As you consider applying for Green Acres funding, please be aware of the following:

- To qualify for grant consideration, the applicant must be a Charitable Conservancy for the purposes of P.L. 1979, c. 378 (C.13:8B-1 et seq.).
- Public access must be provided to every project funded under this program.
- The nonprofit may use as its matching share, its own funds or - for acquisition projects - a donation of all or a portion of the value of a project site.
- The nonprofit must agree not to sell, lease, exchange, or donate the lands acquired or developed with Green Acres funding, except to the State, or local government unit, another qualifying tax exempt nonprofit organization, or the federal government for recreation and conservation purposes (and then only with the prior approval of Green Acres);
- The nonprofit must agree to execute and donate to the State, at no charge, a conservation restriction or historic preservation restriction, as the case may be, pursuant to P.L. 1979, c. 378 (C.13:8B-1 et seq.) on the lands to be acquired or developed utilizing the grant. Please be advised that the conservation restriction and historic preservation restriction referred to in the law will be written by Green Acres and the nonprofit to fit the needs of each project.
- The nonprofit may purchase land in fee simple or may acquire a perpetual conservation easement or historic preservation easement on the property, as long as meaningful public access is provided.
- Park development funding is available for projects located in Urban Aid municipalities (pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:27D-178), Densely Populated municipalities (population density of 5,000 per square mile), Highly Populated municipalities (total population over 35,000), or Densely Populated Counties (population density of 5,000 per square mile). Please contact our office for a list of Densely and Highly Populated municipalities and counties. To determine if your municipality qualifies as Urban Aid, please visit the Department of Community Affairs' web page at www.nj.gov/dca/lgs/muniaid/07_aid/ua_fy08_pub_notice.htm. Also, if you can demonstrate that the supermajority (at least two-thirds) of users of the proposed development project live in the above mentioned municipalities or counties, the development project also will be considered eligible for funding.
- Development projects must be located on land owned by the nonprofit or on which the nonprofit has an irrevocable lease or use agreement, approved by Green Acres, for a term of at least twenty-five years beginning at the time of project construction.

Further details about project eligibility, project ranking and selection, and proposal preparation are contained in the Green Acres application. Applications can be obtained by

visiting our web page at www.nj.gov/dep/greenacres or by calling us at (609) 984-0570. We encourage you to call our staff as soon as possible to begin discussions of your proposed project(s).